



Interim policy for use of public areas of the Capitol Campus

General Administration (GA) has adopted an interim policy to govern requests for public gatherings and other expressive activities in public areas of the Capitol Campus buildings and grounds. This policy also addresses some process improvements, such as application timelines, that will facilitate use of the public areas of the campus.

GA is continuing its formal rule-making process for use of the public areas of the Capitol Campus. The goal is to have a final rule in place by the end of 2009. This interim policy will sunset with the adoption of the final rule.

What the interim policy allows

The interim policy preserves the guarantees of the First Amendment of the United States Constitution and the Washington State Constitution. As before, GA will continue to:

- Reserve dates and locations on campus for diverse types of activities;
- Set reasonable time, place and manner limits on activities; and
- Check for any scheduled governmental activities before permitting other activities.

Key points of the interim policy

- Subject to reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions, the public may place exhibits and displays on the campus grounds, but not inside campus buildings.
- Activity sponsors must apply to GA for a permit at least 2 working days before the planned date of the activity.
- GA will process permit applications on a first-come, first-served basis, and will approve or deny an application within 2 working days from the date of receipt.
- Non-governmental activities cannot exceed 14 calendar days.
- No permit is required for First Amendment activities involving less than 25 people.
- This interim policy will not apply to government activities. The seasonal holiday tree in the Legislative Building rotunda will continue as a General Administration activity.

Schedule for adopting new rules

- Publication of draft rules – September 2, 2009.
- Public comment and hearing period – September 2009.
- Consideration of comments and finalization of rules – October/December 2009.

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